

Quemado Ranger District
2003 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions
(12/13/02)

Allotment Name: Canyon del Buey

Permittee: Miguel R. & Maria Lopez de Aragon

Permit Number: 06-1104

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers: 344 cattle 3/1– 02/28

2003 Annual Validation: 275 cows; 15 bulls 3/01/03 - 2/28/03
4 pair 4/01/03 - 2/28/03
25 replacements 4/01/03 - 2/28/03

Grazing System:

Ten pasture Modified Deferred Rotation. The main winter pastures are Jaramillo, Jara, and Perro, with the smaller pastures - Tomas, Aragon and Buey being used as needed for gathering or holding. Benino is also a holding pasture and is sometimes used for heifers. The availability of water sometimes dictates when and how long the Melquiades, and Benino pastures are used since they are considered fall pastures and are usually grazed after the rainy season. The Canyon del Buey and Slaughter Pastures are summer pastures.

Pasture Rotation: 2003

Pasture	Period of use	Livestock #'s	Allowable Use by species
Jaramillo	12/02/02 to 1/30/03	275 cows	Blue Grama 45%
Benino	12/02/02 to 3/30/03	15 bulls & 25 heifers 4 pair	Blue Grama 45%
Jara/Perro	2/01/03 to 4/30/03 3/30/03 to 4/30/03	275 cows 25 heifers & 4 pair	Blue Grama 45%
Tomas	3/30/03 to 5/15/03	15 bulls (will buy 5 more)	Blue Grama 45%
Canyon del Buey	5/01/03 to 7/31/03	314 cow, heifers , steers	Blue Grama 45%
Canyon del Buey	5/16/03 to 7/31/03	20 bulls(includes 5 new)	Blue Grama 45%
Slaughter Mesa	8/01/03 to 10/15/03	334 head	Blue Grama 45%
Perro	10/16/03 to 11/30/03	331cows & bulls	Blue Grama 45%
Jaramillo	12/01/03 to 1/30/04	331 cows & bulls	Blue Grama 45%

*Livestock numbers will fluctuate in late summer and early fall as permittee prepares for shipping and moving livestock to winter pasture.

Grazing Restriction: The grazing restrictions apply as they did in your 2002 Annual Operating Plan to include a small area of the allotment located on the west end of Canyon del Buey pasture. The area is indicated on the attached map. The grazing restriction for this area is:

No salt, mineral or supplemental feed may be placed in this area from February 1 to August 31, and no concentrations of livestock, i.e., corral use, traps or large gathering of livestock is allowed. Routine maintenance of range developments is allowed. Stock tank cleaning must be approved in advance prior to any activities.

The purpose of this restriction is to provide reasonable and prudent measures to mitigate wildlife issues.

Allowable Use:

The current allowable use for the Canyon del Buey allotment is **45%** yearlong.

Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas: Key forage utilization monitoring will continue. Within two weeks before or after livestock leave a scheduled pasture, key areas will be visited by the Forest Service to determine actual grazing use by livestock/wildlife. These areas are the existing cluster/pace transect sites. Key area utilization checks may also be conducted mid way through a pasture use period. I encourage you to participate in these key area utilization surveys. Estimated forage use determinations will be consistent with the Region 3 Range Analysis Handbook. Methods to be used are grazed plant method, ocular estimates, clipping/weighing or Grazing Intensity Guidelines.

If additional key area sites are needed, the Forest Service will select those sites with permittee input. Definitions from Forest Service Handbook will be utilized in selecting key forage monitoring areas.

If any key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds 60% utilization, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than the 45% allowable use. If all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture meet or exceed allowable use, livestock will be required to be moved early to the next scheduled pasture. This requirement is necessary to prevent over utilization on the forage plants.

Utilization Monitoring Results:

C-5	Jaramillo	38%	P-1	Jara	20%	P-12	Slaughter	5%
C-2	Melquiades	42%	P-4	Jara	29%	C-8	Slaughter	35%
C-3	Melquiades	14%	C-2	Jara	10%	C-10	Slaughter	5%
P-3	Melquiades	19%	C-7	Can. Del Buey	70%	C-9	Slaughter	30%
C-4	Jaramillo	20%	P-16	Can Del Buey	30%	C-11	Slaughter	38%
C-5	Jaramillo	33%	P-2	Can Del Buey	32%	P-15	Slaughter	42%
C-6	Jaramillo	28%	P-6	Can Del Buey	20%			
P-4	Jaramillo	10%	P-8	Can Del Buey	70%			
P-5	Jaramillo	20%	P-9	Can Del Buey	15%			
P-6	Jaramillo	14%	P-13	Can Del Buey	70%			
P-1	Benino	10%	P-14	Can Del Buey	30%			
P-3	Perro	12%	C-4	Tomas	22%			
P-5	Perro	16%	P-7	Slaughter	30%			
C-5	Jara	19%	P-10	Slaughter	10%			
C-6	Jara	31%	P-11	Slaughter	5%			

Monitoring results indicated that most transects that were read were below the 45% allowable use guideline. However, key areas C7, P8 and P13 in the Canyon Del Buey Pasture exceeded the allowable use guidelines with a 70% utilization rate. C7 has exceeded the allowable use guideline for the past 2 grazing seasons. It is the responsibility of the permittee to comply with the allowable use guidelines for the allotment. Please pay close attention to these key areas this grazing season in order to comply with the allowable use guidelines.

Actual Use:

The actual use for the Canyon Del Buey Allotment during 2002 was 3634 AM's. The ten year average for the allotment is 3085 AM's.

Forage Growth and Water Availability:

If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2003 grazing season; total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the grazing permit provides this option.

Range developments:

All assigned range developments identified in the Term Grazing Permit will be maintained to a functional status.

1. Patterson Tank – The spillway needs to be built on the east side (hillside), and the existing spillway needs to be filled in. Currently, the District does not have the capability or funding to conduct this work. The permittee may perform this maintenance upon completion of appropriate clearances for wildlife and cultural resources.
2. Salvador Spring needs repair. The District resource crew is scheduled to work on this spring this summer. Your participation is encouraged and would be appreciated when this work is conducted.
3. District administrative boundary fence needs to be reconstructed at southeast corner of Benino Pasture (fence #4253). The District will provide the necessary materials to complete this reconstruction.
4. Replace water trough at Cat Spring. The FS will provide the trough and the permittee will install.
5. Slaughter division fence needs to have elk jumps installed. The FS will provide material and permittee will install.
6. Cienego Corral needs to be removed. The FS/permittee will remove this corral depending upon the availability of time and personnel.

Other Information:

You suggested and indicated a desire to implement the following projects with Joe during your annual validation meeting.

1. Construct Josefa Tank in the Benino Allotment.
2. Breach Lower Barreras Tank and build a tank in Patterson Canyon.
3. Move Empedrado (Rock) Tank.
4. Deepen Hijadero (Lambing) Tank.
5. Move Divide Tank about ¼ mile.

6. Enlarge Del Buey Tank.
7. Enlarge Mestenio Tank.
8. Enlarge Jara Tank.
9. New tank needed at T. 3 S.; R. 15 W.; Sec. 34; NW ¼. Just east of the trick tank located in the upper end of Perro Pasture.

Miguel, the projects listed above are good projects and I appreciate your desire to improve the allotment. However, in the best interest to you and the District, it would benefit both of us if you could prioritize these projects based on estimated costs and time to complete. This will aid in the development of the program of work for the District and allow John the opportunity to pursue dollars to accomplish this work within the future budget cycles.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the Annual Operating Instructions, please call John Pierson at (505) 773-4678.

Sincerely,

/S/Janice S. Stevenson
JANICE S. STEVENSON
District Ranger

3/18/03
Date